

CLAIMS

1. A method, comprising:

identifying a model of a printing device connected to a network;

5 providing access to printing device management content related to the printing device, the printing device management content including native interfaces for accessing printing device firmware in the printing device;

providing a user interface related to the printing device management content, the user interface including one or more user-selectable items, each
10 user-selectable item being associated with a printing device management function available in the printing device management content;

receiving a user selection of at least one user-selectable item;

executing the printing device management function associated with the user selection; and

15 wherein the printing device management content is located on or accessed by the printing device if the printing device has a browsing capability, and the printing device management content is located on a network site if the printing device does not have a browsing capability.

20 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if the printing device does not have a browsing capability, the executing further comprises communicating with the printing device firmware at a low level between the native interfaces and a stub located on the printing device, the stub exposing multiple firmware interfaces.

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3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining if the printing device has a browsing capability.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing device is directly connected to the network.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing device is indirectly connected to the network.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network site is an Internet site.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing device management function further comprises a function that harvests data from the printing device.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing device management function further comprises a function that modifies printing device settings.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing device management function further comprises a function that transfers printing device software to the printing device.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network site further comprises a network site maintained by a manufacturer of the printing device.

5 11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
the printing device is a first printing device; and
the method steps are repeated for a second printing device connected to the network.

10 12. A client device, comprising:
memory;
a processor;
a browser;
a printing device management component configured to:
15 access one of multiple printing devices in a printing device group;
identify a model of the printing device;
locate a set of printing device native interfaces for the printing device; and
20 communicate with the printing device to execute a printing device management application.

13. The client device as recited in claim 12, wherein the printing device management component is further configured to locate the set of

printing device native interfaces by retrieving the interfaces from the printing device.

14. The client device as recited in claim 12, wherein the printing
5 device management component is further configured to locate the set of
printing device native interfaces by accessing a network site.

15. The client device as recited in claim 14, wherein the network site
is a network site maintained by a manufacturer of the printing device.

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16. The client device as recited in claim 12, wherein the printing
device management component is further configured to communicate with the
printing device via a stub located on the printing device, the stub exposes low
level firmware interfaces for the printing device.

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17. The client device as recited in claim 12, wherein the printing
device management component is further configured to access at least one
other printing device of the printing device group to execute the printing device
management application with the other printing device.

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18. One or more computer-readable media containing computer-
executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the
following steps:

determining if a printing device is management-enabled;

if the printing device is management-enabled, facilitating one or more printer management functions controlled by the printing device;

if the printing device is not management-enabled:

accessing printer management content; and

5 communicating with the printing device via low-level printing device native interfaces to carry out the one or more printing device management functions.

19. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18,
10 wherein the determining step further comprises referencing a list that includes printing device model numbers and, if the list contains a model number of the printing device, determining that the printing device is management-enabled.

20. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18,
15 wherein the determining step further comprises attempting to locate a browser in the printing device and, if a browser is found, determining that the printing device is management-enabled.

21. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18,
20 wherein the determining step further comprises attempting to locate one or more software files exclusively related to a browser and, if found, determining that the printing device is management-enabled.

22. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the facilitating step further comprises receiving user input for the printing device and displaying user output generated by the printing device.

5 23. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the accessing printing device management content step further comprises accessing printing device management content on a web site.

10 24. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23, wherein the web site is a web site maintained by a manufacturer of the printing device.

15 25. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the communicating step further comprises communicating with a stub located on the printing device, the stub exposing the printing device native interfaces.

20 26. The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the communicating step further comprises utilizing one or more native interfaces that are proprietary to a manufacturer of the printing device.